

New Air Services in Madhya Pradesh

†1730. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of flights of Indian Airlines are being increased in Madhya Pradesh with a view to promote tourism;

(b) by when the flights of Bhopal-Raipur-Calcutta would be started as per the demand of the people; and

(c) whether similarly flights from Bhopal to Hyderabad and Bangalore are being started to connect Bhopal with South India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines has no plans presently to start Bhopal-Raipur-Calcutta service.

(c) Alliance Air has linked Bhopal to South India by introduction of a twice weekly B-737 service on Chennai-Nagpur-Bhopal and *vice-versa* route effective 26th March, 2000. Indian Airlines has, however, no plans at present to operate services from Bhopal to Hyderabad and Bangalore.

Air Bus Service from Bhopal Airport

†1731. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhopal Airport has been extended by Airports Authority of India and its runway has been made suitable for Airbus service by extending it; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not operating airbus service from there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir. State Government have been requested for the acquisition of land for extension of runway to 7500 feet.

(b) Does not arise.

Cancellation of Credit Facility to Sahara India

†1732. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CIVIL

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 159 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th July, 2000 and State:

(a) whether the disinvestment plan of IA and AI would increase the possibilities for private airlines;

(b) what is the number of private airlines in the country at present; and

(c) what is Government's reaction on issues raised in a newsitem captioned "Airports Authority cancels credit facility to Sahara Air" published in Asian Age dated May 4, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Private airlines are already operating scheduled services in the country. Disinvestment of AI/IA may not affect the commercial prospects of scheduled private airlines. However, this and all other related issues are being looked into in detail.

(b) There are two airlines operating scheduled services in the country namely, Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines.

(c) Recovery of dues for the services/facilities provided to scheduled airlines is a commercial transaction between the AAI and concerned airlines.

Modernisation of Hyderabad Airport

1733. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to modernise the Hyderabad Airport to the International standards with all modern facilities;

(b) if so, the likely cost of modernisation of Hyderabad Airport; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Hyderabad airport has already been upgraded with all modern infrastructural facilities at a cost of Rs. 100 crores approximately. The Government has also declared Hyderabad Airport as an international airport.

MOU on Airlink with China

1734. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: